

Plaza Church
535 North Main Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Los Angeles Co.

HABS No. 37-1 ✓

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H-LOSAN

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No.37

Historic American Buildings Survey
Henry F. Withey - District Officer
906 Architects Building
Los Angeles, Calif.

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THE PLAZA CHURCH
or
Nuestro Senora, La Reina de Los Angeles
at
535 North Main Street
Los Angeles, California

Owner: Roman Catholic Church.

Date of Erection: Present Church, 1882.

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: One.

Other Existing Records: See text, references to text, and
James, G.W.; In and Out of the Old Missions of California, 278-
279.

Additional Data: See following pages.

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Original church dedicated in 1784 to Nuestra Senora La Reina de Los Angeles, and completed in 1789. Construction of the present church, which is one of the oldest buildings in Los Angeles, was started in 1818, and after many delays, was finished and dedicated in 1882. While it was never meant for a mission in the strict sense of the word, being a church for the people of the pueblo, yet around the Old Plaza Church - the Adobe Church as it was sometimes called - clings and clusters all the romance and glamour of the old California Missions.

Built mostly by Indian labor under the direction of the Catholic Fathers; ~~but from historic sources we find that~~ ^{but from historic sources we find that} Joseph Chapman, a Yankee shipbuilder, figured largely in the construction by reason of his proficiency in treating timbers, much of the framing being still in use.

The Church walls are of adobe with the exception of the brick front, which was built in 1861 to replace the fallen adobe front. At that time the entire church was renovated and repaired and is now plastered both inside and out.

In charge of the church is The Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, while ownership is with the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles and San Diego.

Rexford Newcomb, "The Old Mission Churches and Historic Houses of California" 1925.
p. 188-193

"El Camino Real and Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles" published in 1931
by Ntra. Sra. la Reina de Los Angeles.
p. 10

Approved

J. F. Wither
District Officer

Revised 1936. H.C.F.